

1     What is claimed is:

2     1. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the  
3         unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said  
4         security tag comprising:

5             a) a housing including separable portions removably  
6                 connected to one another in an operative position,  
7             b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing  
8                 and structured to connect the merchandise to said  
9                 housing,  
10            c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector  
11                 member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure  
12                 said separable portions of said housing in said operative  
13                 position, and  
14            d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of indicator  
15                 structures disposed in generally surrounding relation to  
16                 said connector member and structured to be engaged and  
17                 thereafter indicate tampering upon attempted unauthorized  
18                 perimeter access to said connector member.

19     2. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 further  
20         comprising a shield assembly formed of a heat resistant  
21         material and disposed within said housing in at least  
22         partially enclosing relation to said locking assembly.

23     3. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
24         shield assembly is disposed and configured to restrict access  
25         to said locking assembly through an exterior of said housing.

- 1 4. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said
- 2 locking assembly is at least partially mounted on one of said
- 3 separable portions of said housing.
- 4 5. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 4 wherein said
- 5 connector member is attached to a different one of said
- 6 separable portions of said housing relative to said locking
- 7 assembly.
- 8 6. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 5 wherein an
- 9 interior surface of said separable portion that includes said
- 10 locking assembly is structured to extend into an at least
- 11 partially open interior of said separable portion that
- 12 includes said connector member so as to prevent perpendicular
- 13 access to said connector member.
- 14 7. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 6 wherein said
- 15 interior surface is sloped to direct an article inserted
- 16 between said separable portions at said perimeters thereof
- 17 towards said indicator structures.
- 18 8. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 7 wherein said
- 19 interior surface is at least partially defined by a mounting
- 20 retainer structured to position said indicator structures
- 21 9. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said
- 22 indicator structure comprises a breakable ink ampule
- 23 containing a releasable staining agent.
- 24 10. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said
- 25 indicator structures comprise three breakable ink ampules,

1       each containing a releasable staining agent and disposed in  
2       generally surrounding relation to said connector member.

3       11. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein an  
4       interior surface of said separable portion that includes said  
5       ink ampules is sloped so as to direct an article inserted  
6       between said separable portions at perimeters thereof into  
7       breaking engagement with at least one of said ink ampules.

8       12. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the  
9       unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said  
10      security tag comprising:

11       a) a housing including separable portions removably  
12       connected to one another in an operative position,

13       b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing  
14       and structured to connect the merchandise to said  
15       housing,

16       c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector  
17       member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure  
18       said separable portions of said housing in said operative  
19       position,

20       d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of indicator  
21       structures disposed in one of said separable portions,  
22       and

23       e) an interior surface of said separable portion containing  
24       said indicator structures being structured to direct an  
25       article inserted between said separable portions into

indicating engagement with at least one of said indicator  
structured.

13. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 12 wherein said interior surface is sloped towards said connector member.

14. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said indicator structures comprise breakable ink ampules.

15. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said interior surface is sloped upwardly relative to said separable portion containing said indicator structures so as to recess into an interior of an opposite one of said separable portions.

16. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said security tag comprising:

- a) a housing including separable portions removably connected to one another in an operative position,
- b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing and structured to connect the merchandise to said housing,
- c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure said separable portions of said housing in said operative position;
- d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of breakable ink ampules, and

1       e) a mounting retainer disposed in one of said separable  
2        portions and structured to retain said ink ampules said  
3        connector member and a perimeter of said separable  
4        portions such that an article disposed between said  
5        separable portions towards said connector member at a  
6        radial location of one of said ink ampules will engage  
7        said ink ampule.

8       17. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said  
9        ink ampules are disposed in a generally triangular orientation  
10       so as to generally surround said connector member.

11       18. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the  
12        unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said  
13        security tag comprising:

14       a) a housing including separable portions removably  
15        connected to one another in an operative position,  
16       b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing  
17        and structured to connect the merchandise to said  
18        housing,  
19       c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector  
20        member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure  
21        said separable portions of said housing in said operative  
22        position, and  
23       d) an interior surface of one of said separable portions  
24        structured to protrude from said separable portion so as  
25        to extend into an interior of an opposite one of said

1           separable portions and restrict perpendicular access to  
2           said connector member by an article inserted between said  
3           separable portions.